

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed December 23, 2008. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-21 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-6, 8, 13 and 20 were rejected. Claims 14-15, 17-19 and 21 were allowed. Claims 9-12 were previously withdrawn due to an election/restriction requirement and Claims 7 and 16 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 20 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 5 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. While Applicants respectfully disagree, Claim 5 has been canceled rendering this rejection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 13 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,794,800 issued to Rudolf Heinz ("*Heinz*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,259,504 issued to Willibald Schürz et al. ("*Schürz*") and U.S. Patent No. 6,316,863 issued to Carsten Schuh et al. ("*Schuh*"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicants do not concede, does not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 13 and 20 have been canceled herein, rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 14-15, 17-19 and 21 were allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the large entity fee for a two-month extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-4871 of King & Spalding L.L.P. Applicants believe there are no further fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4871 of King & Spalding L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.457.2000.

Respectfully submitted,
KING & SPALDING L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants



Guy F. Birkenmeier, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 52,622

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SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
KING & SPALDING L.L.P.
CUSTOMER NO. **86528**
512.457.2000
512.457.2100 (fax)